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signature creation key Ke_{s1} to Ke_{sN} , and public signature decryption key Kd_i . Commerce Hub computer 412 corresponds to trusted intermediary 112, e.g., Commerce Hub computer 412 creates private signature creation key Ke_i , and public signature decryption keys Kd_{s1} to Kd_{sN} .

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, line 21, through page 20, line 2 as follows:

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In one embodiment, computers 408 and 412, as in appropriate steps in the method of FIG. 3, are configured to automatically create digital signatures (e.g., S_s , S_i) of each partner 108 and 112, and automatically verify these signatures. Computers 408 and 412 also automatically encrypt/decrypt message M and transmit message M with the appropriate digital signatures S_s and S_i .

REMARKS

These amendments (1) add to the specification the priority claim that was made in the Declaration that accompanied the application when filed; and (2) correct certain portions of the specification to be consistent with the terminology and description of other portions of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.”**

In addition, formal drawings are being submitted herewith. The formal drawings for FIGs. 2A and 3 are slightly changed from the drawings that were submitted when filed. Copies of those figures, showing the changes in red, are included. The changes made to the drawings make the terminology used in the drawings consistent with the terminology used in the specification to describe the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is introduced. The Examiner's approval of the drawings changes is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Acct. No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Dated : August 13, 2001

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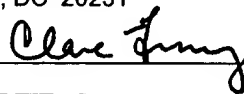
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In the Specification:

At page 1, immediately following the title of the application, please add the following paragraphs:

PRIORITY CLAIM:

This application claims priority from United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/175,136, filed January 7, 2000, entitled "TRUSTED INTERMEDIARY", and naming as inventors Sandeep Jain, Sudheer Thakur, and Kevin Darryl Jeu, the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 7 through 21 as follows:

FIG. 4 shows a computer network 400 illustrating a computerized embodiment of the invention. Network 400 includes a plurality of computers 408-1 to 408-N and a "Commerce Hub" computer 412. Each computer 408-1 to 408-N corresponds to a partner 108-1 to 108-N (of FIG. 2) and their respective digital signatures S_{s1} to S_{sN} , private signature creation keys Ke_{s1} to Ke_{sN} , and public signature decryption key Kd_i . For example, computers ~~108-1~~ 408-1 to 408-N each creates a respective signature S_{s1} to S_{sN} , a respective private signature creation key Ke_{s1} to Ke_{sN} , and public signature decryption key Kd_i . Commerce Hub computer 412 corresponds to trusted intermediary 112, e.g., Commerce Hub computer 412 creates signatures S_i , private signature creation key Ke_i , and public signature decryption keys Kd_{s1} to Kd_{sN} .

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, line 21, through page 20, line 2 as follows:

In one embodiment, computers 408 and 412, as in appropriate steps in the method of FIG. 3, are configured to automatically create digital signatures (e.g., S_s , S_i) of each partner 108 and 112, and automatically ~~verifies~~ verify these signatures. Computers 408 and 412 also

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automatically encrypt/decrypt message M and transmit message M with the appropriate digital signatures S_s and S_i .